

FOURTH EDITION



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HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF  
THE GAMBIA

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ARNOLD HUGHES  
DAVID PERFECT

# **Historical Dictionary of The Gambia**

*Fourth Edition*

Arnold Hughes and David Perfect

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## Bibliography

### INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of the third edition of this work in 1999, there has been a considerable number of new publications on The Gambia, mainly in the form of articles in scholarly journals, newspapers, and news magazines, and in government publications and other official reports and studies. Most of these new publications have focused on the 1990s and 2000s, the main exception being our own *A Political History of The Gambia, 1816–1994*, which covers the colonial and postcolonial periods fairly evenly. In addition, a great deal of information can now be accessed on the Internet. More monographs on The Gambia are now available, and the number of unpublished theses has increased. Some can be obtained in microfiche format from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Given this embarrassment of riches, the bibliography has had to be selective—identifying only the most relevant publications on the most important subjects. One major topic, medical research, has been deliberately excluded from the bibliography, partly because it is so vast and partly because of its highly specialized nature.

Those seeking further bibliographical information should undoubtedly begin by consulting Professor David Gamble's seven major volumes of Gambian bibliography, which span every conceivable subject and cover several languages, African and European, from the earliest historical references to 1999. All scholars of The Gambia are indebted to Professor Gamble for his lifelong dedication to Gambian bibliography. No other country has been so well served in this respect by a single scholar. Some of these volumes are published in Gamble's Gambian Studies series; running to more than 50 items and covering a wide range of topics, this is the largest single series of Gambian material.

The two major repositories of Gambian documentation are The National Archives of the United Kingdom (formerly known as the Public Record Office) in Kew, London, and the Gambia National Archives in the Quadrangle, Banjul. The National Archives holds the surviving correspondence between the Gambian government and the Colonial Office and its successor bodies (currently the Foreign and Commonwealth Office), as well as a large number of documents originating from other British government departments. Some of the more important files are cited below, while a more detailed list of 19th- and 20th-century documents is published in *A History of The Gambia*. Florence Mahoney's Ph.D., "Government and Opinion in the Gambia 1816–1901" (now published in part) is another important source of 19th-century documents. The Gambia National Archives holds a variety of published sources, including newspapers, as well as original official correspondence and reports. Both operate the 30-year rule on accessing confidential documents.

Additional archival and other documentary material on The Gambia may be found at other locations in Britain, as well. The Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, is the primary repository for Gambian documents in Britain, holding many published and unpublished documents. The School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London, has a smaller Gambian collection, but also holds the archives of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, which contains the correspondence between European missionaries in Gambia in the early 19th and 20th centuries and the society's headquarters in London. Rhodes House Library, University of Oxford, holds a number of personal records of former colonial officials in the Gambian colonial service. Some early Gambian newspapers are held at the British Library Newspaper Depository in Colindale, north London. Smaller collections of documents can be found in other university libraries and elsewhere.

Another useful source of published material on The Gambia is the Gambia National Library. In addition, official documents relating to censuses, economic and social matters, and planning, which have not been placed in the National Archives, may be consulted at the appropriate government ministries in Banjul.

An important recent development has been the great increase in the amount of material on The Gambia to be found in electronic form; the range of sources is vast and encompasses a wide range of subjects, historical as well as contemporary, and particularly relating to political and

developmental issues. Most international organizations with interests in The Gambia have websites, as does the Gambian government itself. Gambians themselves, particularly those living outside the country, are making a significant contribution to the current debates on Gambian issues. However, some of these sources tend to be ephemeral because websites change or cease to function. Rather than try to list these voluminous sources, we have listed Gambia "portal" sites, which contain a great many key sites of value to the researcher. Please note that all links were accurate as of June 2008. In addition, a great deal of biographical information on prominent figures in Gambian history can be found through careful searching on the Internet. Particularly valuable resources, in this respect, have been the censuses for England held by the National Archives (covering 1841–1901) and the FamilySearch website of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (<http://www.familysearch.org>).

Finally, two non-documentary resources are of great value to scholars. The Gambia National Museum in Banjul, which is part of the National Centre for Arts and Culture (<http://www.ncac.gm/banjul.html>) has a collection of over 5,000 audio tapes and reels on Gambian history and culture available to researchers to consult. Professor Donald Wright has also made his Niumi fieldwork interview tapes, "Senegal and Gambia Mandinka, Serer and Fula," available to other scholars; these are deposited with the Michigan State University Libraries (<http://www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/africana/spc.htm>).

### GAMBIAN INTERNET "PORTALS"

Columbia University Libraries African Studies:  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/cuvl/Gambia.html>

Stanford University SULAIR Africa South of the Sahara:  
<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/gambia.html>

University of Pennsylvania African Studies Center:  
[http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country\\_Specific/Gambia.html](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country_Specific/Gambia.html)

Yale University Library:  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/african/gambia.html>

US Library of Congress Portals to the World [for Gambian law and politics sites]:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/amed/gambia/resources/gambia-general.html>

DMOZ Open Directory Project:

[http://www.dmoz.org/regional/Africa/Gambia/Guides\\_and\\_Directories](http://www.dmoz.org/regional/Africa/Gambia/Guides_and_Directories)

An A-Z of African Studies on the Internet:

[http://www.lib.msu.edu/limb/a-z/az\\_bg6.html](http://www.lib.msu.edu/limb/a-z/az_bg6.html) [go to Gambia]

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All listed newspapers are, or were, published in the Banjul area (Bathurst), except *The Farmer* (Basse).